



A vacation at the Occidental Resort will be absolutely grand!

It has taken some time, but the Occidental Grand Aruba has arrived to nearly the point of completion where the management wants it to be. For the fans of what had been the Americana and Allegro resorts, they will find the Occidental's policy of exceptional service and five star rating will make their stay at the newly renovated and refurbished resort better than ever.

Those that are familiar with the hotel will recognize the beautiful pool and beach area that have always been a star attraction, but the rest of the resort will be as if you are staying at a new place. The design is clean, uncluttered, and elegant.

What had been the Allegro became part of the Occidental family of resorts back in 1999, when the quality chain originating out of Spain purchased the Allegro franchise. Management feels that now, after years of renovation, it has finally earned the right to tout the Occidental Grand label.

The dining rooms of the five restaurants that are now open offer a lovely ambiance, with beautiful views. Particularly attractive for a romantic dinner are the private Tatami rooms at Zen, their oriental restaurant, which also sports a sushi bar and two teppen-yaki tables. The view from the terrace of Olio, the Italian restaurant is truly breathtaking, as is Desires, which directly overlooks the beach. Bonny Stanley, Group and Banquet Manager confided that they had just hosted a wedding at Olio, and the terrace of Desires is also perfect for private parties and special occasions. A poolside Mexican restaurant is nearly completed. The Occidental Grand is an all-inclusive resort, with all drinks and meals in one tidy package price. For those that have always equated "all-inclusive" with "mediocre," there will certainly be some delightful surprises.

If one is the sort that requires to be catered to every minute of their entire stay, the crown jewel in this gem of a resort is their "Royal Club Package." Three floors, the seventh, eighth and ninth, make up a "resort within a resort," with private dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and additional amenities that proved a six star resort experience. "It is all in the little touches," reveals Bonny, and a meal in the ninth floor lounge, with a stunning view of the island is very touching, indeed. General Manager Miguel Eugéne, brought to Aruba specifically to open the resort and see that all is up to Occidental standards informed us that the regular Honeymoon package also includes one romantic dinner in the private dining room. In addition, nightly extravaganza entertainment of varied themes is also a part of all packages, making this a unique resort in Aruba.

Despite there is has not been an official opening, the Occidental Grand Aruba is open and fully functioning, ready to provide the warm welcome that repeat visitors have grown accustomed to. The staff that always made a visit memorable, such as Ketty, waiting at the front door to greet people for over thirty years, is still there, just in a spanking new resort!

If you are contemplating returning to Aruba, and are interested in trying somewhere new, it is suggested you stop by and have a look at the Occidental Grand, very likely you will like what you see.